



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Inventor(s) : Masayuki MUKAINO *et al.*
Serial Number : 10/714,905
Filed : November 18, 2003
For : IDLER GUIDE UNIT

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER
37 C.F.R. § 1.97 AND 1.98**

The Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 5, 2004

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 applicant hereby notifies the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO-1449 form and which the examiner may deem relevant to the patentability of the claims in the above-identified application. One copy of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing date of an Office Action on the merits (whichever is later), and therefore no certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

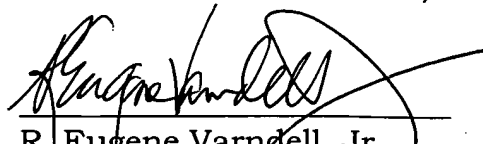
In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for the listed foreign language document, this document is discussed in applicant's specification disclosure.

It is respectfully requested that the examiner initial or otherwise mark one copy of forms PTO-1449 and forward the same to the applicants indicating that the documents listed thereon have been considered.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee therefor, as well as any deficiency in the payment of the required fee(s) or credit any overpayment, to our deposit account No. 22-0256.

Respectfully submitted,
VARNDELL & VARNDELL, PLLC



R. Eugene Varndell, Jr.
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 29,728

Atty. Case No. VX042553
106-A South Columbus St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 683-9730

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Substitute for form 1449A-E

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

1

Complete if Known

Application Number

10/714,905

Filing Date

November 18, 2003

First Named Inventor

Masayuki MUKAINO et al.

Group Art Unit

3611

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number

VX0032553US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner
Signature

Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with excommunication to applicant.

¹ Applicants unique citation designation number (optional).

² See Kinds of Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3).

⁴ For Japanese patent documents, indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16, if possible.

⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached, where "P" means a partial translation, such as an abstract.